



City of Los Angeles

**Performance Audit of the City of Los Angeles'
Compliance with the Revocable License
Agreement for Veterans' Barrington Park**

December 2017

Final Report

Submitted by

BCA Watson Rice LLP

Certified Public Accountants & Management Systems and Financial Consultants
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A. Executive Summary

The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks contracted with BCA Watson Rice LLP to conduct an audit of the City's performance of its obligations under the Revocable License Agreement (the "Agreement") by and between the United States Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks regarding Veterans' Barrington Park, formerly known as Barrington Park. Our audit period was from September 1, 2016 (Effective Date of the Agreement) to August 31, 2017. The Agreement was a recognition of the VA's goal to revitalize the VA's West Los Angeles Campus into a welcoming and vibrant community for veterans of the Greater Los Angeles area, and help end veteran homelessness in Greater Los Angeles.

The primary objective of the audit was to assess and report on the City's compliance with certain key obligations under the Revocable License Agreement regarding Veterans' Barrington Park. The audit also included reaching out to Veterans' groups and other key stakeholders to solicit views and opinions regarding the City's performance of its obligations under the Revocable License Agreement.

Based on our audit, we found that the City complied with significant terms and conditions of the Agreement except for the following:

- The City posted signage at the park within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, giving notice of and effectuating the change in the park's name to Veterans' Barrington Park. However, the City provided no evidence that its website or other electronic media giving notice of and effectuating the name change was posted within sixty (60) days following the Effective Date. (See page 7)
- The City did not develop and prominently post signage and park rules (including, without limitation, on the City's websites) that give full force and effect to the purpose that Veterans' Barrington Park is to principally benefit veterans and their families. (See page 7)
- The City did not, within ten (10) days of the Effective Date, provide to the local community, notices regarding the planned up to 50% reduction in the size of the Dog Park. The notice provided was dated October 12, 2016, 31 days after the required September 10, 2016 notification date. However, the City did comply with the 50% reduction in the size of the dog park and relocated the portion of the dog park that was eliminated. (See page 8)
- The City did not, within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, post notices stating that the parking area of the Veterans' Barrington Park will be converted to a paid parking location, and providing notice of the anticipated start date for parking enforcement, which VA was to determine. (See page 8)
- The City did not meet the requirement of hiring veterans at a total annual cost of not less than \$200,000 for the first year after the Effective Date. We obtained documentation showing that the City

hired and paid veterans \$125,511.42 from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017, resulting in an underage of \$74,488.58 to be carried over to the next Agreement year. (See pages 8-9)

- The City did not design, commission, erect and dedicate the Veterans Memorial and complete the park beautification program within one (1) year after the Effective Date. However, the City did comply with expending in excess of \$150,000 on various park improvement projects. (See page 9)

The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks management response to the report's audit findings above is provided as Attachment I to this report.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

December 2017

BCA Watson Rice, LLP

B. Background

Veterans' Barrington Park is located at 333 South Barrington Avenue in Los Angeles, on property owned by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") and is licensed to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks ("City"). The approximately 9.82-acre park provides sports fields, a parking lot, picnic areas and an off-leash dog park. Over 900 residents live within one-half mile walking distance of Veteran's Barrington Park.

As a result of *the Valentini v. McDonald* litigation, the VA and the City of Los Angeles, acting by and through its Department of Recreation and Parks entered into a Revocable License ("Agreement") effective September 1, 2016 regarding the purpose and use of Veterans' Barrington Park. By entering into the Agreement, the City and VA confirmed and memorialized their mutual understanding of the terms and conditions which acknowledge that the Veterans' Barrington Park is part of the West Los Angeles Campus of the VA and that the primary purpose of the Veterans' Barrington Park is to principally benefit veterans and their families.

Valentini v. McDonald was a class action lawsuit against the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald and the director of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System on behalf of homeless and disabled veterans. The lawsuit, filed in 2011 contended that the VA benefits programs discriminates against veterans who are homeless as a result of their severe mental disabilities because they cannot access the medical, mental health and other services to which they are entitled.

In January 2015, the VA Secretary and attorneys representing homeless veterans in Los Angeles announced an agreement to lead the launch of a new master plan for the West Los Angeles VA Campus to serve veterans in need. Under the agreement, the Secretary and plaintiffs' representatives were to develop a written plan to help end veteran homelessness in the Greater Los Angeles area. The plan was to focus on serving veterans, particularly homeless veterans, women veterans, aging veterans and veterans that are severely disabled. The plan was to include input from the veterans' community and other stakeholders, including the local community.

Part of the plan included the parties entering into the Revocable License Agreement regarding the Veterans' Barrington Park in recognition of the VA's goal to revitalize the West Los Angeles Campus into a welcoming and vibrant community for veterans of the Greater Los Angeles area, and help end veteran homelessness in Greater Los Angeles.

C. Objectives, Scope and Methodology

The City of Los Angeles contracted with BCA Watson Rice LLP (BCAWR) to conduct an audit of the City's performance of its obligations under the Revocable License Agreement (the "Agreement") by and between the United States Department of Veteran Affairs and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks regarding Veterans' Barrington Park, formerly known as Barrington Park. Our audit period was from September 1, 2016 (Effective Date of the Agreement) to August 31, 2017.

The primary objective of the audit was to assess and report on the City's compliance with certain key obligations under the Revocable License Agreement regarding Veterans' Barrington Park.

The scope of the audit included evaluating the City of Los Angeles' compliance with the following Revocable License Agreement requirements:

- Renaming the park to Veterans' Barrington Park and posting notifications and signage at the park and notifications on the City's websites and electronic media within the 10, 30 and 60 day requirements.
- Developing and prominently posting signage and park rules that include giving full force and effect to the purpose that Veterans' Barrington Park is to principally benefit veterans and their families.
- Reducing the size of the Dog Park by 50% within one (1) year of the Effective Date; finding one or more alternative locations off VA property for a Dog Park within 180 days of the Effective Date; converting the eliminated portion of the Dog Park to green space; and posting notifications regarding the reduction in the size of the Dog Park within ten (10) days of the Effective Date.
- Posting of notices stating that the parking lot at Veterans' Barrington Park will be converted to a paid parking location, and providing notice of the anticipated start date for parking enforcement, which VA will determine.
- Advertising and promoting the hiring of veterans at City parks and the requirement that the City shall hire veterans at a cost of no less than \$200,000 annually. If the \$200,000 annual requirement is not met, the underage/shortfall shall be carried over to the next year of the Agreement.
- Maintaining the park grounds and the parking area during the term of the Agreement, and keeping the same in a safe, clean, and sanitary condition. This requirement shall include landscaping and trash removal.
- Coordinating with Community for Veterans of Greater Los Angeles and VA in assisting with planning and helping implement activities and VA sponsored events at the Veterans' Barrington Park that will be open to veterans and their families. Activities may include, but not limited to, athletic, recreational, rehabilitation, social or therapeutic sports league programs. Activities were to be planned in consultation with veterans, veterans' service organizations, and the community.
- Commencing at least one recreational program for veterans within six (6) months after the Effective Date.

- Assisting the VA with coordination for use of the Park for up to three (3) VA-sponsored events per year.
- Working with the VA and the local community to design, commission, erect, and dedicate a memorial to veterans to be located at the Park and conduct a beautification program no later than one (1) year after the Effective Date.

To accomplish the above audit objectives, our audit approach and methodology included the following:

1. Reviewed and analyzed the Agreement to obtain an understanding of the purpose of the Agreement and the City's obligations under the Agreement.
2. Conducted an entrance conference with VA and City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks representatives to discuss the scope and timing of the audit.
3. To determine whether notices and signage was posted in accordance with the methods and timelines required by the Agreement, we obtained and reviewed emails and copies of notices and signs regarding the renaming of the park, the Dog Park redesign and relocation, park rules, conversion of the parking lot to paid parking, and installation of the Veterans Memorial and park Beautification Program.
4. Obtained and reviewed documentation and photos from the City to determine whether the Dog Park was reduced in size by 50% within one (1) year of the Effective Date and whether the eliminated portion of the Dog Park was converted to green space by, among other steps, removing the existing wood chips in that area and adjusting the existing fence to enclose only the remaining area of the Dog Park.
5. Obtained and reviewed documentation from the City to determine whether within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, the City posted notices stating that the parking area of the Veterans' Park will be converted to a paid parking location, and provided notice of the anticipated start date for parking enforcement, which VA was to determine.
6. Obtained and reviewed documentation from the City to determine whether, during the term of the Agreement, the City advertised and promoted the hiring of veterans at City parks. We also obtained and summarized payroll records to determine whether the City hired veterans to work at the parks at an annual cost of no less than \$200,000.
7. To determine whether Veterans' Barrington Park is being maintained in a safe, sanitary and clean condition satisfactory to VA, we obtained a list of City personnel assigned to maintain the park, obtained feedback from veterans and stakeholders, and conducted a site visit at the park.
8. Obtained emails and documentation regarding the City's assistance in planning and implementing veteran focused events and activities at Veterans' Barrington Park that would be open to veterans and their families during the first year of the Agreement.

9. Obtained emails, project plans, project cost records, and project progress photos from the City to determine whether the Veterans Memorial project and park beautification program were completed within one (1) year after the Effective Date.
10. Sought feedback and input from stakeholders such as veterans and their families, veterans' service organizations, California Congressional Delegation, plaintiffs in the Valentini v. McDonald litigation and the general community. Contacted and sought the assistance of Vets Advocacy, the Los Angeles Region Community Veterans Engagement Board (LAR-CVEB), Congressman Lieu's Office and Senator Feinstein's Office.
11. Conducted a site visit at Veterans' Barrington Park to observe the following:
 - a. Required signage and park rules were posted in accordance with the Revocable License
 - b. The Dog Park had been reduced in size by approximately 50%
 - c. The parking lot had been converted to a paid parking location
 - d. The Veterans' Memorial had been installed and completed
 - e. The beautification program had been implemented
 - f. The park is being maintained in a clean and safe condition

D. Detailed Audit Results

Overall we found that the City of Los Angeles was in compliance with key provisions of the Agreement except for the following:

Review of Compliance with Park Name Change Requirements

Finding No. 1 – We verified that the City posted signage at the park within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, giving notice of and effectuating the change in the park’s name to Veterans’ Barrington Park. However, the City provided no evidence that its website or other electronic media giving notice of and effectuating the name change was posted within sixty (60) days following the Effective Date.

Based on our review of emails between the City and Charisma Design Studio, Inc. regarding the sign with the new park name, and review of photos and signage obtained from the City providing notice of the park name change, we found that the City did post signage at the park within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, giving notice of, and effectuating the change in the park’s name to Veterans’ Barrington Park. However, the City did not provide any evidence showing that the park name change was posted on its website and other electronic media within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date. The City provided an email dated January 3, 2017 that indicated the required electronic media postings have been completed, but provided no evidence that it was completed within the 60 day requirement.

Review of Compliance with Park Rules Signage and Notification Requirements

Finding No. 2 – The City did not develop and prominently post signage and park rules (including, without limitation, on the City’s websites) that give full force and effect to the purpose that Veterans’ Barrington Park is to principally benefit veterans and their families.

Based on our review of emails and photos of park rules signage obtained from the City, the City’s Department of Recreation and Parks website, and observations made during a park site visit, we found that the City did not develop and prominently post signage and park rules (including, without limitation, on the City’s websites) that give full force and effect to the purpose that Veterans’ Barrington Park is to principally benefit veterans and their families. The City provided an email that indicated the VA requested the following language for the signage: “Veterans have priority access and usage of Veterans Park”. However, the actual signage posted did not include this language.

Recommendation

We recommend that the City and VA work together to ensure the signage at the park is in compliance with the Revocable License Agreement.

Review of Compliance with the Dog Park Relocation Requirements

Finding No. 3 – The City did not, within ten (10) days of the Effective Date, provide to the local community, notices regarding the planned up to 50% reduction in the size of the Dog Park. The notice provided was dated October 12, 2016, 31 days after the required September 10, 2016 notification date. However, the City did comply with the 50% reduction in the size of the dog park and relocated the portion of the dog park that was eliminated.

The City did not within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date provide to the local community, notices regarding the planned up to 50% reduction in the size of the Dog Park. The public notice dated October 12, 2016 did not meet the requirement to provide notice of the pending plan within 30 days of the Effective Date.

Based on our review of aerial images of the park, the Department of Recreation and Parks' Park Improvement Project Plan, and conducting a park site visit, we found that the City, within one (1) year of the Effective Date, at no cost to VA, reduced the size of the Dog Park by 50% of its current size, and converted the eliminated portion of the Dog Park to green space by, among other steps, removing the existing wood chips in that area and adjusting the existing fence so that it will enclose only the remaining area of the Dog Park. Also, the City did, within 180 days of the effective date, use its best efforts to identify an alternative location off VA property to relocate the eliminated portion of the Dog Park.

Review of Compliance with Parking Area Requirements

Finding No. 4 – The City did not, within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, post notices stating that the parking area of the Veterans' Barrington Park will be converted to a paid parking location, and providing notice of the anticipated start date for parking enforcement, which VA was to determine.

The October 12, 2016 public notice we obtained from the City stated that a conversion of the Veterans' Barrington Park parking lot to a paid parking location was planned with an implementation date to be determined and enforced by the United States Veterans Administration. We conducted a site visit at the park on October 19, 2017 and found that the paid parking conversion had not yet taken place. The City indicated that the VA does not have a timeline for the conversion to metered parking pending other negotiations.

Review of Compliance with Employment and Hiring

Finding No. 5 – The City did not meet the requirement of hiring veterans at a total annual cost of not less than \$200,000 for the first year after the Effective Date. We obtained documentation showing that the City hired and paid veterans \$125,511.42 from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017, resulting in an underage of \$74,488.58 to be carried over to the next Agreement year.

Based on our review of documents and emails obtained from the City, we found that during the term of the Agreement, the City advertised and actively promoted the recruiting and hiring of veterans at City parks. The

documents obtained included a copy of a job posting with a pre-interview questionnaire, a list of veteran candidates selected for employment and emails between the City and veterans support organizations such as the United States Veterans Initiative, the Salvation Army Veterans Employment Services, the Salvation Army Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF), and New Directions for Veterans. The documents and emails provide evidence of the City communicating and announcing job openings to veterans' organizations, candidate referrals from those organizations, interviewing and selecting veteran job candidates, and job fairs organized for the purpose of hiring veterans.

We obtained a list of veterans hired by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks since the Effective Date and payroll records and timesheets for those veterans for the period September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017. We summarized the payroll records for the year and found that the City paid \$125,511.42 to veterans during the first year of the agreement leaving an underage of \$74,488.58 to be carried over to the next Agreement year.

Recommendation No. 1

We recommend that the City employ/hire veterans at a cost of not less than \$274,488.58 to work at City parks during the second year of the Agreement (September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018). This amount includes the carryover (\$74,488.58) from the first year of the Agreement plus the \$200,000 per year required by the Agreement for the second year.

City Management Response

The City concurs with this finding. The City indicated that the Department of Recreation and Parks was unable to retain all of the veteran's hired during the first year of the Agreement. The City indicated that they will increase the hiring of veterans in the next Agreement year by doing the following: 1) hire five (5) Special program Assistants (SPA II) at a cost of \$80,260, 2) transition current part-time employed veterans to full-time employment through the targeted local hire program, 3) continue to work with veteran support organizations to recruit and hire veterans, and 4) continue to advertise and actively promote the recruiting of veterans at City parks.

Review of Compliance with the Veterans Memorial and Park Beautification Program

Finding No. 6 – The City did not design, commission, erect and dedicate the Veterans Memorial and complete the park beautification program within one (1) year after the Effective Date. However, the City has complied with its commitment to expend a maximum of \$150,000 for the Veterans Memorial and park improvements.

Based on our review of emails, project plans, project costs, and project progress photos obtained from the City, we found that the Veterans Memorial project and park beautification program were still in progress one (1) year after the Effective Date. The Veterans Memorial was complete by October 19, 2017 when we visited the park. Per City records provided, the City has expended \$172,256.03 for all Veterans' Barrington Park

projects, which includes \$59,926.26 for in-house City labor and \$112,329.77 for vendor labor and materials. Per the Agreement, the City committed to spend up to a maximum of \$150,000, which included \$100,000 for the Veterans Memorial and \$50,000 for the beautification program.

The City concurs with this finding, but stated the following: the overall project could not be completed without the monument information since the monuments were to be installed within the landscape beautification area. Although there were communications in March 2017 to stay on schedule, the final monument design was not approved until June 2017. The City made every effort to expedite the fabrication, but fell short of meeting the deadline.

Feedback from Veterans and Community Members

We inquired and received feedback from Veterans groups and local community members regarding the City's obligations under the Revocable License, and various aspects of the park and its uses. We have included copies of all email correspondence received as an Attachment to this report. We have sorted the responses received by veterans groups and members of the local community.

It must be noted that some members of the local community are under the impression that the Revocable License Agreement may be cancelled, and email correspondence received regarding the cancellation overwhelming was against the cancellation of the Agreement.

ATTACHMENT I

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
AND PARKS MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Sofia Piña-Cortez
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

December 29, 2017

BCA Watson Rice LLP
21250 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 150
Torrance, CA 90503
Attention: Michael J. de Castro

Dear Mr. de Castro:

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks - Audit Response

We have received and reviewed a draft copy of the Performance Audit completed by your firm of the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks' (Department) compliance with the terms and conditions of the Revocable License Agreement between the Department and the United States Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) for the operation and maintenance of the Veterans' Barrington Park.

The Department considers this park as integral in providing the necessary amenities needed by veterans and the local general population.

The Department holds our relationship with the VA in high regard and looks forward to a continued partnership with the VA and welcomes any and all recommendations that lead to improvements in this relationship regarding the use and operation of Veterans' Barrington Park.

As stated above, we have reviewed the draft audit report and have the following comment(s) concerning the findings.

Finding Nos. 1, 3, and 4 state the following:

Finding No. 1 – BCA Watson Rice LLP (BCA) verified that the City posted signage at the park within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, giving notice of and effectuating the change in the park's name to Veterans' Barrington Park. However, the City provided no evidence that its website or other electronic media giving notice of and effectuating the name change was posted within sixty (60) days following the Effective Date.

Finding No. 3 – The City did not, within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, provide to the local community, notices regarding the planned up to 50% reduction in the size of the Dog Park. The notice provided was dated October 12, 2016, 11 days after the required October 1, 2016 notification date. However, the City did comply with the 50% reduction in the size of the dog park and relocated the portion of the dog park that was eliminated.



Finding No. 4 – The City did not, within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, post notices stating that the parking area of the Veterans' Barrington Park will be converted to a paid parking location, and providing notice of the anticipated start date for parking enforcement, which VA was to determine.

Finding Nos. 1, 3, and 4 pertain to signage and notifications to be posted within thirty (30) days and within sixty (60) days for website/electronic media. Although the Department missed meeting the required thirty (30) and sixty (60) day time frame in which the signage and notifications should have been posted, immediate action was taken by staff to correct issue and worked with VA staff to obtain their concurrence with the language used for the final signs.

Finding No. 2 states the following:

Finding No. 2 – The City did not develop and prominently post signage and park rules (including, without limitation, on the City's websites) that give full force and effect to the purpose that Veterans' Barrington Park is to principally benefit veterans and their families.

The Department will continue to work with the VA to ensure that appropriate signage is provided in compliance with the License Agreement.

Finding No. 5 states the following:

Finding No. 5 – The City did not meet the requirement of hiring veterans at a total annual cost of not less than \$200,000 for the first year after the Effective Date. We obtained documentation showing that the City hired and paid veterans \$125,511.42 from September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017, resulting in an underage of \$74,488.58 to be carried over to the next Agreement year.

The Department does not disagree with this finding. It should be noted that, although the Department hired veterans under this program, the Department was unable to retain all of the new hires during the first year of the agreement as noted in previously submitted documents. The Department intends to increase the hiring of veterans in the next Agreement year to meet the \$74,488.58 underage and proposes the following: 1) hire five - (5) Special Program Assistants (SPA II) at the cost of \$80,260.00; 2) transition current part-time employed veterans to full time employment the targeted local hire program; 3) continue to work with veteran support organizations to recruit and hire veterans; and 4) continue to advertise and actively promote the recruiting of veterans at City parks.

Finding No. 7 states the following:

Finding No. 7 – The City did not design, commission, erect and dedicate the Veterans Memorial and complete the park beautification program within one (1) year after the Effective Date. However, the City has complied with its commitment to expend a maximum of \$150,000 for the Veterans Memorial and park improvements.

The Veterans Memorial, park beautification and dog park reduction project was completed in mid-October 2017. The Department expended \$172,256.03 for the design and construction of the project. The Veterans Memorial, park beautification and dog park area reduction were all combined into a single comprehensive design. The landscape architects designed the various

BCA Watson Rice LLP
Attn: Michael J. de Castro
December 29, 2017
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components while providing continuity from one area to the other. The project delivered the Veterans Memorial and park beautification adjacent to the ball fields while portions of the dog park area reduction adjacent to the parking lot were incorporated in the park beautification. The ball fields were also extended to the southern dog park area reduction.

Please be assured that the Department is committed to address the issues brought forward by the audit report and will work hard to improve our compliance with the License Agreement.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cathie Santo Domingo of my staff at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. SHULL
General Manager

[REDACTED]
RAMON BARAJAS
Assistant General Manager
Planning, Construction, and Maintenance Branch

RB/CSD:ct

ATTACHMENT II
CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM VETERANS AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**Vets Advocacy Comments to City's Progress
on Revocable License at Veterans Barrington Park**

1. The City shall rename the park "Veterans Barrington Park" as of September 1, 2016 (the "Effective Date").

This has occurred although the recreation center is still being referenced as the "Barrington Recreation Center". The name of the recreation center should be changed to "Veteran Barrington Recreation Center".

2. Measures taken by the City to rename Veterans' Park shall include the City posting promptly, within ten (10) days following the Effective Date, notices at Veterans' Park.

The signage has been changed. However, it is strongly encouraged in the future that the auditor include photos demonstrating evidence of compliance in future.

3. Measures taken by the City to rename Veterans' Park shall include the City posting promptly, within thirty (30) days following the Effective Date, signage at Veterans' Park.

The signage is confirmed.

4. Measures taken by the City to rename Veterans' Park shall include the City shall posting promptly, within sixty (60) days following the Effective Date, notices on the City's websites and other electronic media (such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram), which give notice of and effectuate this change in the name of Veterans' Park.

The City is not in compliance. Facebook still references Barrington Dog Park at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Barrington-Dog-Park/150726008279299>

5. The City shall require all dogs at the Veterans' Park to be kept on a leash unless the dogs are otherwise physically present in an areas designated as a "Dog Park" as described in the agreement.

This requirement has/is being met.

6. The general community can use Veterans' Park so long as such use receives VA's prior written approval. Any such approval must be reviewed by the VA and renewed not less than annually. Veterans and their families will be given first claim and access to Veterans' Park and to all resources of Veterans' Park, above all non-Veterans and their families unless it conflicts with previously coordinated and approved general community use. Veterans shall be permitted to request to use the Veterans' Park upon submitting a written request to VA with a copy to the City, indicating the proposed activity, date and time for the activity. VA will advise the City of the request and provide a written reply to the requestor within 10 working days, plus any additional time that VA and the requestor agree in writing.

Vets Advocacy requests that the auditor provide information on what the City is doing in terms of veteran community outreach and make this process known as there is no evidence of this process on either VA or City website.

7. The City shall develop and prominently post signage and park rules (including, without limitation, on the City's websites) that give full force and effect to the purpose that Veterans' Park is to principally benefit veterans and their families no later than thirty (30 days) following the effective date. The City will provide the VA with a reasonable opportunity to review and comment upon such signage and park rules before they are posted or otherwise distributed.

The City has not met this requirement. There is no signage at the park or no information indicating such information on the City website.

8. The City shall use its best efforts to find one or more alternative locations off VA property to relocate the Dog Park, and to identify those locations to the VA and the local community within 180 days after the Effective Date.

The City has identified an alternative location and informed residents meeting the requirement.

9. The City will within one (1) year of the Effective Date and at no cost to the VA, take all steps necessary to reduce the Dog Park by up to 50% of its current size, convert the eliminated portion of the Dog Park to green space by, among other steps, removing the existing wood chips in that area and adjusting the existing fence so that it will enclose only the remaining area of the Dog Park.

The City has not fully met this requirement.

10. Within ten (10) days of the Effective Date, the City will provide notices to the community regarding the planned up to 50% reduction in the size of the existing Dog Park. The City notices shall be advertised conspicuously throughout the Dog Park area and on the City's website, and shall in no way criticize VA for the reduction/closure of the Dog Park. The City will provide the VA with a reasonable opportunity to review and comment upon such notices before they are finalized, posted and distributed.

Vets Advocacy requests a copy of the notice sent and dates that they were sent from City and/or Auditor.

11. Within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, the City shall post notices stating that the parking area of the Veterans' Park will be converted to a paid parking location, and providing notice of the anticipated start date for parking enforcement, which VA will determine.

Vets Advocacy requests a copy of the notice sent and dates that they were sent from City and/or Auditor.

12. The City shall, during the term of the agreement, advertise and promote the hiring of veterans at City parks (with emphasis on Veterans' Barrington Park).

Vets Advocacy requests any information indicating that the hiring of veterans at LA City Parks and Recreation was promoted from City and/or Auditor.

13. The City will continue to provide maintenance and staffing of the Veteran's Park by City personnel at no less than current standards, and in any event, the City shall at all times keep the premises in a safe, clean, and sanitary condition satisfactory to VA.

No Comment

14. The City in coordination with the GLA, will assist with planning, and help implement activities at Veterans' Park that will be open to veterans and their families. Activities may include (but not be limited to) athletic, recreational, rehabilitation, social or therapeutic sports league programs. Activities will be planned in consultation with veterans, veterans' service organizations, and the community.

Vets Advocacy requests a copy of past and future planned activities.

15. During the Term, the City will assist VA with coordination for use of the Veterans Park for VA sponsored events, such as veteran-focused concerts and movie nights, and will allow up to 3 such events per year at no cost, subject to VA's responsibility to pay all other costs incurred in connection with the events. □

Vets Advocacy is unaware of any past events hosted at Veterans Barrington Park that would satisfy this requirement.

16. By no later than 6 months after the Effective Date, the City will establish, publicly announce, and commence at least 1 athletic, recreational, rehabilitation, or sports league program for Veterans during the Fall, Winter and Spring seasons. □

Vets Advocacy believes this requirement has been satisfied.

17. The City will work with VA and the local community to design, commission, erect and dedicate a memorial (comprising of a U.S. flag and plaque dedicating the Veterans' park to Veterans) to Veterans to be located in Veterans' Park. The dedication of this memorial will take place no later than 1 year after the Effective Date. □

Vets Advocacy is unaware of any efforts made by the City and/or VA to solicit community input for the design and commission of a veterans memorial. Vets Advocacy requests proof that any such meetings did occur to include, but not limited to, the date/time of community meetings and sign in sheets.

18. The City will conduct a beautification program in consultation with VA in order to improve the appearance of Veterans' Park and its facilities. This beautification program shall be completed no later than 1 year after the Effective Date. □

Vets Advocacy is unaware of a coordinated beautification program between the City and VA.

19. In accordance with applicable State and local laws, the City shall make best efforts to hire veterans on a priority basis when having contractors and/or City personnel construct, operate, or maintain improvements at Veterans Park. □

Vets Advocacy is unaware of such activity and requests any attempts made to hire veterans or contract with veteran-owned businesses for the purpose of improving Veterans Park.

20. During the term of the License, the City will maintain to the satisfaction of VA, books and records documenting the status of the City's delivery of the rent and consideration agreed to under this License, and will make such records available upon request within 10 days to any resident of the City, any veteran or any Veteran Service Organization. □

Vets Advocacy is unable to comment on the documentation of City and VA accounting for the property.

21. Any use made of the property affected by the Revocable License, and any construction, maintenance, repair or other work performed thereon by the City, including, without limitation, the installation and removal of any article or thing, shall be accomplished in a manner satisfactory to VA. □

No Comment

22. Except as may be otherwise expressly provided herein, no United States property shall be destroyed, displaced or damaged by the City in the exercise of the privilege granted by this Revocable License without prior written consent of VA and the express agreement of the City promptly to replace, return, repair and restore any such property to a condition satisfactory to VA upon demand. □

No Comment

Tom Kelly

From: Michael de Castro
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:18 AM
To: Tom Kelly
Subject: FW: Veterans' Barrington Park Audit 1
Attachments: Veterans'BarringtonPark.doc; Veterans'BarringtonParksignature sheet.pdf

FYI

Michael J. de Castro, Managing Partner



21250 Hawthorne Blvd. Suite 150
Torrance, CA 90503
[Redacted] (Office)
[Redacted] (Fax)

From: Howard [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 11:22 AM
To: [Redacted]
Di: [Redacted]
Fla: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Jose: [Redacted]
Subject: Veterans' Barrington Park Audit 1

Michael J. De Castro, Managing Partner,

Please see the attached correspondence in response to the request for comment on the Veterans' Barrington Park Audit. I will also forward you a series of photographs taken on November 15, 2017 of the Veterans' Barrington Park facility. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience. Thank you.

Howard [Redacted] Commander City of Commerce AGIF Chapter
CalVet Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises Council Member
Los Angeles Region Community Veterans Engagement Board Member
Chairman Vets Advisory Committee NEAT
[Redacted]

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Howard [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 5:05 PM
Subject:

November 17, 2017

Michael J. de Castro, Managing Partner
BCA Watson Rice LLP
21250 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 150
Torrance, CA 90503

RE: Veterans' Barrington Park

Michael J. de Castro, Managing Partner,

The following correspondence is being forwarded to you with regard to an announcement received informing the general public of the Veterans' Barrington Park Audit.

On November 15, 2017, between the hours of 11:00 am and 12:00 pm I did visit the Barrington Park facility adjacent to the Post Office located in Barrington Park Village.

Despite no athletic events being conducted or regularly scheduled on the two baseball diamonds located at the Barrington Park facility, the vehicle parking lot appeared to be near capacity during the middle of the day at the time of my visit. (see attached photos)

During my short visit I also observed the following:

1. Several soccer goals stored along the fence of the baseball diamonds;
2. Several sideline markers on the playing field designed to mark the limits of the playing field;
3. Debris discarded along the fencing of the entirety of Barrington Park, in the equipment storage area, and on the playing field in the form of plastic bottles, water bottles, plastic bags, paper waste, and a broken lounge chair on the baseball diamond;
4. Several individuals allowing their dogs to run freely on the athletic fields and outside the designated dog park;

RE: Veterans' Barrington Park

February 17, 2017

Page 2

5. During my short visit the dog park appeared to have at least twice as many dogs as people running freely within the designated "dog park" area;

6. One violent altercation initially involving a large Akita and a long haired Terrier, the altercation incited a St. Bernard to join the fray as well as the majority of approximately 25 dogs at the dog park; and

7. No apparent access point from the main Veterans Campus to the Veterans' Barrington Park facility for the utilization by Veterans wishing to access the Park facility.

Summary

1. There is absolutely **no** access for Veterans wishing to utilize the Veterans' Barrington Park facility, aside from taking a hike along the streets through the neighborhoods of Brentwood and Barrington Village;
2. The maintenance of the Veterans' Barrington Park facility does not meet the standard of care for recreational facilities located on the Veterans Campus;
3. The accumulation of discarded debris and the current condition of the Veterans' Barrington Park facility is a health hazard and threatens the well being of the veteran residents on the main Veterans Campus;
4. The parking located at the Veterans' Barrington Park is being utilized by nearby residents of the Barrington Village as a parking lot for their convenience and/or storage; and
5. Barrington Village Patrons utilizing the dog park located at the Veterans' Barrington Park are not complying with any posted "dog park" regulations and at least in several instances appear to believe the entire Veterans' Barrington Park can be utilized for the benefit of their dogs.

RE: Veterans' Barrington Park
February 17, 2017
Page 3

Recommendations

1. The establishment of a program to provide Veteran residents from the main Veterans Campus with access to regularly scheduled Canine recreational and training events at the Veterans' Barrington Park facility;
2. The establishment of a fee structure to maintain cleaner standards at the Veterans' Barrington Park facility;
3. The establishment of a daily parking fee for vehicles utilizing the parking lot at the Veterans' Barrington Park facility for purposes other than attending athletic or recreational events at the facility;
4. A time limitation for vehicle parking without permit to preclude overnight parking or storage and a towing procedure for violators of the parking restrictions;
5. The establishment of a dog park license and fee for patron utilization of the dog park located at the Veterans' Barrington Park facility; and
6. An increased presence of a staff at the Veterans' Barrington Park facility to enforce current and regulations/ordinances to be established for the utility of Veterans Barrington Park.

Kindly inform me of all corrective measures implemented to resolve the issues I have presented in this correspondence at your earliest possible convenience. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Howard  Los Angeles Region Community Veterans Engagement Board member.

CC

LAR CVEB members

Tom Kelly

From: Steven [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 8:29 PM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly
Cc: Rebecca [REDACTED]
Subject: Veteran's Barrington Park

You should both have received the email from my daughter, forwarded below, on Barrington Park, which I understand is on Veteran's Administration land. I agree wholeheartedly with everything Rebecca wrote, and would like to add a bit more from my perspective.

Freedom is not free and without our military we would not be free, but rather ruled by Nazi Germany or pre-WW II Japan . . . or millions of American civilians would have died defending out homeland.

A great many, perhaps the majority, those who served in our military -- including in wars I think we should not have fought (for example, the Vietnam War and Iraq II) -- sacrificed. Many paid the ultimate price, many suffered physical wounds, and many suffered psychological wounds. Many, including me, were fortunate not to suffer any of those wounds (I served in the United States Air Force).

I take it as beyond good faith reasonable dispute that all have a responsibility to -- we all owe -- those who served and who need help.

That is the job of the VA, but it is not only the job of the VA. All of us have a responsibility.

I take it as incredible that land which was donated for veterans, and solely for veterans, is being used for purposes other than helping veterans. I find it beyond belief and that those so privileged to live in Brentwood would be so selfish as to contend otherwise

A dog park! Who has gone around the bend far enough to say the land used as a **dog park** should not be used for housing for homeless veterans. A little league field -- so the parents of privileged youngsters won't have to drive them further to play, when that

land should be used for veterans, especially homeless veterans. How many homeless veterans get any benefit from the dog park or those fields? That's rhetorical – zero.

The outrage goes on. Some of the land which was supposed to be dedicated to Veterans is used by the Brentwood School -- one of the best (and most expensive) private schools in Los Angeles -- not for Veterans. How many of the students at Brentwood School are required to spend time helping needy veterans and how many needy veterans or employed by or attend programs at The Brentwood School. Some of the land which was supposed to be dedicated to Veterans is used for a parking lot, which helps businesses – are those businesses required to hire veterans who are in need and how many do? And on and on.

This is really simple. The VA land is for veterans, period or, in military terms, full stop. That is the highest and best use for that land. **Shame** on those who argue otherwise.

Steven [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
AF 28282417

From: Rebecca [REDACTED]
Date: November 18, 2017 at 10:48:54 AM PST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Veteran's Barrington Park

I was raised in Brentwood and am raising my three children here. Both of my parents have owned property in Brentwood for 43 years. Despite all of us enjoying the convenience of having kids' sporting events and a dog park on Barrington, I would far prefer to see the land used exclusively for the benefit of our veterans and particularly to house our homeless and physically and mentally disabled veterans. I do not support the park continuing to be used for the benefit of non-veteran members of the community.

This is an incredibly wealthy and privileged community. I am ashamed when I see our community protest the presence of homeless veterans and seek to use the veteran land for parking for high end retail establishments and for the use of students at a ritzy private school. I have nothing against wealthy people or private schools. I was privileged to grow up in Brentwood, attend the Harvard-Westlake school, Tufts University, and UCLA law school and to graduate with virtually no debt because of my parents' generosity. It's not about class; it's about character.

As JFK observed, "[f]rom of those to whom much is given, much is required." Giving this land back to the women and men who bravely served this nation and sacrificed so much is the very least this community can do.

I also think the community should give preferential hiring treatment to veterans, particularly ones who are trying to find their way out of homelessness. That conduct is likely voluntary if the lease is not renewed, but if it is renewed, that kind of public service requirement should be included in the terms of the lease agreement. I am sure I can think of many other similar terms that should be imposed on the local and city government if a lease like this is going to continue. Paying rent is wildly insufficient, particularly if I am correct in assuming the funds go to the larger administrative agency at the national level, as opposed to staying in the community to directly benefit the veterans who live here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Tom Kelly

From: Nancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2017 6:12 PM
To: Michael de Castro
Cc: Tom Kelly; Admin Director
Subject: Veterans Barrington Park

Please count us in as residents in Brentwood who appreciate the existence of the Veterans' Barrington Park. The ball field and dog park add to the interaction of those at the VA and those of us who partake from the community.

Having veterans work in these areas would be so beneficial to their health, to be outside, and to work in a friendly environment. We in the community very much want to reach out and join hands and this is a perfect setting for mutual existence.

The park area has been run well and would benefit from neighborly participation. Addition of checker tables or other activity would be great to share with everyone if there would other activities considered for the area. It would lend a fine venue for Festivals or celebrations of community/veteran collaboration.

It would be wonderful to organize veteran centric participation in these spaces and very much would encourage the Veterans Administration to continue to enlarge the positive experience it can be for the Veterans and community by continuing to upgrade and use the ball fields and dog park. We would be happy to participate in any way we would be helpful.

Thank you,

Nancy and Gary [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tom Kelly

From: Josh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 9:24 AM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly
Cc: Brentwood Association
Subject: Veterans' Barrington Park

Greetings,

I am writing in support of maintaining the current configuration and programming of Veterans' Barrington Park. It is a crucial community resource for residents of Brentwood and, I believe, it creates a tremendous amount of good will towards the VA among local residents.

I support any efforts to beautify and upgrade the park, and I absolutely support the hiring of veterans.

I am happy to answer further questions.

Regards,
Josh [REDACTED]
Brentwood Resident

Tom Kelly

From: marcie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 11:28 AM
To: Tom Kelly; [REDACTED]
Cc: Jennifer Turchen
Subject: The Dog Park Area

Dear Tom!

So just ignore the comments about no call back...I know we got at least 3 call backs now, and one voice mail...so thank you !

From my perspective, the city is maintaining the parks well. I do not fault any party for not monetizing the South Parking Lot as there have been bigger parking issues to resolve. I have copied Jennifer Turchin, President of the Brentwood Village Chamber of Commerce. She has worked tirelessly for the last 4 years to create valuable services to the VA and we have worked together. Her family has a strong military service history as well.

Jennifer can tell you more about the parking lots. They have been historically shared by the community and the VA since the 1940's as documented in the master plan. We believe one operator should oversee both the north and south lots and Jennifer has applied for same.

The community has a tremendous pent up desire to support and partner with the VA for the benefit of Veterans. Now that there is new leadership it is possible! Here is a link to my published articles. <https://westsidetoday.com/?s=marcie+polier+swartz>

Again, thanks so much Tom,

Best!
Marcie

Hi Jesse,

Regarding the email below I called Michael de Castro below, but have not yet heard back. There is no email listed for him. Do you have it and can you share it?

He is asking below about the dog park. Our organization, Village for Vets, has been working with the VA and the City to propose a PTSD Dog Program run by Operation Freedom Paws. Here is a link: <https://operationfreedompaws.org/> Mary Cortani, the founder, is a Viet Nam Veteran, and a CNN Hero.

The city is also favorably inclined towards this program. They would require bathrooms and shelter for the program for inclement weather. We could put a trailer or portapotties and a tent there, however there is a local resident who wants to donate a one story home to the VA. I am seeing it next week. The owner wants to pay for the renovations necessary. The home is designated historic. Our organization would take over the maintenance of the home after its installation. The home would provide offices not only for the dog program, but for another PTSD program for Veterans run by the Twilight Brigade. I just took their training at the VA Hospital. It was profound.

Jesse, I'm asking for your help. It would be significant to be able to do this. We are growing too big for my home office and we could office Village for Vets there as well.

Putting this program adjacent to the dog park on the VA side would be ideal. Dogs trained to soothe anxiety and interrupt PTSD nightmarish episodes in Veterans play a life changing role. The location next to the dog park provides excellent distractions for training as the trained dogs must learn to ignore distractions and stay focused on the Veteran. The Veterans play a significant role in training their dogs once matched. The house has a large garage and many rooms to be repurposed to fit this program, our administration and the Twilight PTSD program as well.

Hoping to talk very soon,
Marcie



www.auntiemarcie.com
www.villageforvets.org



Village for Vets provides community based volunteer and financial support to the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VASLAHCS) for the most vulnerable Veterans it serves.

Tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3)
of the Internal Revenue Code
EIN 81-1275379

From: LAR-CVEB [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** LAR-CVEB
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2017 4:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Veterans Barrington Park Audit Request

#5

[View this email in your browser](#)

sending you a request for input on the Veterans Barrington Park as part of the required process under the Wes or those who have leases with the VA, including the City of Los Angeles which holds the lease on Veterans Bar an annual independent audit as outlined below. Please send any comments by next **Friday, November 17th** to in the email below.

ect: Veterans' Barrington Park Audit

ompany, BCA Watson Rice LLP, has been engaged by the City of Los Angeles (the "City") to conduct a performance auc
s performance of its obligations under the Revocable License by and between the United States Department of Veterans A
he City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks regarding Veterans' Barrington Park, formerly known as Barr

y objective of this performance audit is to obtain feedback and input on various topics from key stakeholders such as Veter
families, Veterans Service Organizations, the US Department of Veterans Affairs, former Plaintiffs in the Valentini v. Mcl
tion,the local community and members of the California Congressional delegation.

cs we are seeking input on include, but are not limited to, the relocation of the dog park, recruiting and hiring of veterans to
ark, the City's efforts in park improvements and beautification, park rules, organizing events and activities for Veterans at
'eterans Memorial, and overall satisfaction with maintenance and upkeep of the park and its parking areas.

re seeking your assistance in connecting us with stakeholders who can provide feedback and input on these topics. The fo
iding us with input can be by telephone or in person interviews, group discussions, or other methods such as a questionnair

ppreciate any assistance you can provide in identifying stakeholders, obtaining their contact information, and determining
ods to communicate with them regarding the City's performance of its obligations under the Veterans' Barrington Park Re
ise Agreement.

uld like to thank you in advance for your assistance in this important matter.

rds,

rael J. de Castro, Managing Partner



**0 Hawthorne Blvd. Suite 150
ance, CA 90503**

**(Office)
(Fax)**

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You are receiving this email because you subscribed to LAR-CVEB updates or participated in a past LAR-CVEB event.

Our mailing address is:

Los Angeles Region Community Veteran Engagement Board
11301 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90073

Tom Kelly

From: Kenfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2017 9:39 AM
To: Michael de Castro
Cc: Tom Kelly; [REDACTED]
Subject: Veteran's WLA facility

As residents, we are OK with leaving the 9 hole golf course, leasing to Brentwood School, the parking lot, and the Dog Park. They have been substantial assets to our community and should be left in place.

Thanks

Kenfield & Felicia [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tom Kelly

From: Margie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2017 10:09 AM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly; [REDACTED]
Subject: Veteran's Barrington Park

I have been a Brentwood homeowner since 1969. It became a great asset to the community when the dog park was opened. I can not believe that there is even consideration to close this facility. It is widely utilized and offers one of the few, accessible areas for off leash activity for our neighborhood dogs. It also acts as a social gathering place for the community. There are so few options available for the locals and the professional dog walkers. Those who use the park are responsible, keeping it clean and functional. I live at the top of Kenter and the dog walkers there rarely clean up after themselves turning the open space toward the Getty into a visual and health related nuisance. There is no parking at Kenter, and without a park with parking and trash facilities you can bet the other less suitable locations will become overrun with dog waste and cars and accidents and incidents with wildlife. It is poor planning on the part of the city to allow this lease to lapse. All efforts should be made to retain the dog park and its adjacent parking. It is good urban planning.

Marjorie [REDACTED]

Tom Kelly

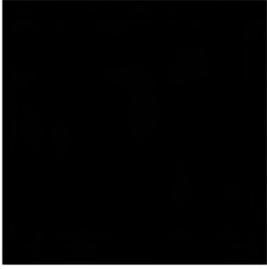
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2017 11:49 AM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly; [REDACTED]
Subject: Veteran's Barrington Park

Our family has enjoyed the Barrington park and dog park for years. There are so few green spaces and large dog parks in our very urban city. We kindly request that you do not revoke the license for use.

Tom Kelly

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2017 1:04 PM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly
Subject: V.A. Land

My dogs and I have enjoyed visiting the Barrington dog park for years. It's given them a chance to run around, chase balls, and meet other friendly dogs. I would hate to see it go away.



Tom Kelly

From: Karen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2017 9:03 PM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly; [REDACTED]
Cc: Home Dalby
Subject: Veteran's Barrington Park

PLEASE KEEP WARRINGTON DOG PARK OPEN! AND KEEP IT NICE! IT IS A BIG DUST BOWL NOW.
HELP US PLEASE!

BEST,

KAREN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

kid

Tom Kelly

From: Debra [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 19, 2017 8:51 AM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly; [REDACTED]
Subject: Veteran's Barrington Park

I can't tell you how many happy hours my children and dogs and I have spent in the dog park on Barrington. As this land is reverting back to your use, I strongly hope you will keep this precious parcel of green as a place that Veterans, children, dogs and residents can play and enjoy our beautiful California weather and watch dogs of all sizes bring happiness to all. The Vets deserve this happiness. Perhaps the administration could even develop a program where Vets adopt dogs or dog owners adopt vets for visits and camaraderie.

Sincerely,

Debra [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tom Kelly

From: Larry [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 19, 2017 11:57 PM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly; [REDACTED]
Subject: Veteran's Barrington Park

Dear Veteran's Administration, It is unfortunate that for the 30+ years I have lived near the Barrington Park Fields and dog park next to the Post Office, that I understand you have cancelled the leases for our community. Please advise what I and my neighbors can do to bring back this important community neighborhood park that my family has enjoyed for so many yers. If you would like a yearly fee paid or to sell the land outright please advise and have a great week!

**Regards,
Larry [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

Tom Kelly

From: Amanda [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 8:53 AM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly; [REDACTED]
Subject: Barrington Playing Fields and Dog Park

Greetings,

I fully support the VA using its land exclusively for the benefit of our veterans. I also hope that our community will have the opportunity to be involved in the land's use by helping to provide activities, meaningful work, and/or celebrations for our vets.

My teenage son has greatly benefitted from participating in the volunteer program at Operation Gratitude, a nonprofit which sends free care packages to active troops abroad. He enjoys the hard work, and it has given him a greater awareness of the sacrifices men and women in uniform are making on his behalf as well as a sense of pride in our country and armed forces. I hope we can find a way to use the Barrington land that will allow our non-military community to engage with veterans and participate in honoring and caring for them.

Sincerely,

Amanda [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tom Kelly

From: Berta [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:15 AM
To: Tom Kelly
Subject: Barrington dog park

Hi, My name is Berta [REDACTED] I have been going to the "dog park" on Barrington for more than 20 years. My dog Stella lived to 17 and I used to take her to Barrington before there even was a dog park. Every Saturday and Sunday we would meet the most wonderful people and their dogs. The dog park means a lot to me. I still go there with my doodle, "Blanche". The dog park adds so much to Brentwood. The dog park is a place to get away from what is happening in the world, a place to walk and feel peaceful in a very busy city.

thank you, berta [REDACTED]

Tom Kelly

From: Michael de Castro
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:17 AM
To: Tom Kelly
Subject: FW: Barrington park

FYI

Michael J. de Castro, Managing Partner

21250 Hawthorne Blvd. Suite 150
Torrance, CA 90503

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2017 6:45 PM
To: Michael de Castro
Subject: Barrington park

We love this park. We need more places to get away.

Frank [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tom Kelly

From: Michael de Castro
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:18 AM
To: Tom Kelly
Subject: FW: Recovery of Stored VA History in bldg 258

FYI

Michael J. de Castro, Managing Partner



21250 Hawthorne Blvd. Suite 150
Torrance, CA 90503

From: Gayle [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2017 10:36 AM

[REDACTED]

Subject: Recovery of Stored VA History in bldg 258

FYI: I'm writing to make sure that we are not duplicating efforts. I'm currently chasing down a rumor, maybe/maybe not, about storage areas that may be holding various VA historical items, could be photos, documents, anything really. It's VA a treasure hunt. Should you know anything about items being stored anywhere on this facility please let me know so we can save these items.

Possible display locations.

These items could be displayed in the main lobbies and changed quarterly? I've e-mailed Sadie Stewart and she may know right where these things are located? I mentioned this to Ann Brown at a recent Vet Day event and just wanted discover what other board members might know about these items.

Best regards,

Gayle [REDACTED]

From: Howard [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 1:03 PM
Subject: Veterans Barrington park audit 6

Tom Kelly

From: Seth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 10:36 AM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly; [REDACTED]
Subject: Veteran's Barrington Park

I live in Brentwood and have four children. I would like to see Veteran's Barrington Park remain accesible to the community. We use the park with our children, and having access to it is of great value to the community. I have many memories of spending time there with my kids playing, as my wife and I enjoy the moment outside in a green space.

Yours,
Seth

Tom Kelly

From: Andrew [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:17 AM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly; [REDACTED]
Subject: Veteran's Barrington Park

Dear All,

Although I don't use Veteran's Barrington Park very much anymore, when my children were growing up, they played in many park league and AYSO sports that took advantage of the field space at the park. We would also go to the park to practice baseball and soccer. My kids are now teenagers and we don't go there very often, but I think of all the other children in our community that would miss out on the convenient and essential space. As you probably hear, park space is at a great premium in our community and this park would be sorely missed if taken from our children.

Andy



Tom Kelly

From: maggie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 2:51 AM
To: Tom Kelly
Subject: VA Land Use

I am curious to know how Brentwood School got around all of the issues and regulations? Perhaps a good place to start.

[REDACTED]

Tom Kelly

From: Erik [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 5:57 PM
To: Michael de Castro; Tom Kelly
Subject: Thoughts on Barrington Park Importance to Community

Hi there:

I am a Brentwood Glen homeowner, and I gather from the Brentwood Glen Association that the use of the VA fields has been suspended or is being reconsidered for all purposes.

As a result, I just want to let you know what an important part of the Brentwood community the VA fields and Barrington dog park are. For many years, my two boys have played soccer, baseball and flag football on the VA fields -- where I have spent hours upon hours coaching them and investing in their development. There is simply no other local park resource nearby in Brentwood other than the VA fields to play these youth sports. Exercise, in general, and sports, in particular, is unbelievably important for children's development. So, I hope you will do everything you can to keep the VA fields available to youth programs such as soccer, baseball and flag football.

It's probably not lost on you that kids who do not play sports have a much higher propensity to get involved in troublesome activities such as alcohol and drug experimentation at early ages, underscoring the importance of youth sports programs to set a strong foundation in the formative years.

I'd really hate to see the Barrington dog park be taken away as well (as it would be a real blow to the Brentwood community), yet as a father and coach of youth sports, I feel much more strongly about the importance of youth sports as noted above. I have seen firsthand the favorable impact sports can have on youth development. For the betterment of our children, we should not let this opportunity to play sports in the local community be taken away from the younger generation.

Thanks for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

Tom Kelly

From: Judith [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 2:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Tom Kelly
Subject: Veterans Barrington Park Leases

To Whom it May Concern,
Please do not terminate leases for the Barrington Park Fields and dog park. These are very important to our community and should be kept open.

[REDACTED]
Board Member, Westwood Hills Homeowner Association